



INSIDE



Endurance

Three days of on-the-go training tests these 2nd Cavalry Soldiers.

Page A3



Pacemates

The dance team from the NBA's Indiana Pacers entertains an enthusiastic crowd at Carey Theater.

Page A6



Everclear

The popular band gives a free performance at McChord.

Page B1



Basketball

League action heats up.

Page B1

Airfield run

It's time to train for the annual race series.

Page B1

NEWS

Award winner

The Northwest Guardian was named, last week, winner of the Keith L. Ware Award for journalistic excellence, as the premier full-sized newspaper in the Army.

This marks the third year in a row that the paper has been honored with the award. Last year, the Northwest Guardian was also named best in the Department of Defense. This year's DOD awards will be announced in a few weeks.

Increases
in speeding
reported

New enforcement effort underway by post police

By Spc. Laura M. Bigenho
42nd Military Police Brigade, PAO

It looks like a picture taken straight from a scary movie scene: a vehicle mangled up so tightly around a telephone pole that only half of the car can be seen from the side of the road. At first glance, Fort Lewis police thought it was a new static display for DUI Awareness. The car rests nearly four feet above ground, and except for the back end, which still



Courtesy Photo

A new initiative will target speeding on post in an effort to prevent accidents like this.

(remarkably) had letters in place spelling out the model, it was almost unidentifiable. As police approached more closely, they realized the horrific scene was a real crash... and a person was trapped inside.

The cause of the crash? Speed and alcohol: two of the most common and preventable causes of accidents.

See **DRIVING**, Page A2

Soldier to stand trial
for selling equipment

Staff sergeant one of 10 NCOs charged with theft of everything from MREs to smoke grenades

For the Northwest Guardian

The first court-martial has been scheduled following an investigation into the selling of Army property by a group of Soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Arthur O. Smith, currently assigned to the Henry H. Lind NCO Academy, has been referred to a general court-martial for selling government property. The trial is expected to begin April 10.

Smith is one of 10 Soldiers charged for their role in selling government supplies and equipment to Mykel Loftus, who resold the property through his government surplus business. Loftus is being prosecuted in Federal Court by the U.S. Attorney.

Smith, who is in pretrial confinement, is charged with 25 specifications of selling government property, and one specification of disobeying a lawful order and of

attempting to influence a witness.

The Article 32 for Sgt. Steven E. Mauzy was completed on Feb. 21, and he is awaiting recommendation from the brigade commander. He is charged with a specification of conspiring to commit larceny and sale of government property.

Three Soldiers, Sgts. Stanley D. Morris, Mario R. Huerta-Morales and Davin D. Woolridge have waived their Article 32 investigations and are awaiting the recommendation of the brigade commander.

See **TRIAL**, Page A2

1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division

IT'S BACK TO THE BASICS



Photos by Jason Kaye

Pfc. Joshua Wynkoop, left, of B Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. follows his team out of a building during live-fire rehearsals on Range 31. Training is focused at the team and individual level, and B Co. is working on developing standard operating procedures for their Soldiers, many of whom are not only new to the unit, but new to the Army.

With new recruits, unit prepares for return to Iraq

By Jason Kaye
Northwest Guardian

For Soldiers in the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, training right now is all about the basics.

"When we trained to go to Iraq initially, the company had been the same for two years. Now about 80 percent of those guys are gone, and it's under all new leadership, so we have to start over, so to speak – go from square one and work up to the level we were at before," said Sgt. Paul McCully, an acting platoon ser-

geant in B Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment.

McCully was on Range 31 March 2, along with his platoon leader and commander as they cycled teams through a live-fire exercise that keyed on entering buildings and clearing rooms. Training right now is focused at the team and individual level and B Co. is developing standard operating procedures for their Soldiers, many of whom are not only new to the unit but new to the Army.

See **BASICS**, Page A14



Pfc. Jeremy Banks keeps an eye on the top floor of a building while moving with his team on Range 31.

Committee recommends changes to military pay system

10 and 40 year retirements, pay for performance featured

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A committee that's spent the past year studying the military compensation system is recommending sweeping changes that, if approved, would bring military compensation more on par with private-sector compensation.

The Defense Advisory Committee on Military Compensation released details of its recommendations Feb. 28 and is incorporating them in a final report expected to go to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld by late April, the committee

chairman told the American Forces Press Service.

The proposed package includes two major ideas, retired Navy Adm. Donald Pilling, former vice chief of naval operations, explained. These include revamping the retirement system so service members receive more pay throughout their careers rather than at their completion, and basing pay on performance rather than longevity and other factors, he said.

Pilling emphasized that any proposed changes to the compensation package would be grandfathered in, so currently serving members would not be affected. The only exception could be in the case that current members are offered the opportunity to voluntarily "opt in" to the new system, he said.

In terms of retirement, the committee recommends:

- Vesting members at 10 rather than 20 years;
- Paying graduated retirement plans ranging from 25 percent of base pay at 10 years to 100 percent of base pay at 40 years;
- Establishing a Thrift Savings Plan with government contributions of 5 to 10 percent of base pay;
- Providing "gate pays" at specific service milestones, as determined by the individual services; and
- Delaying payment of the retirement annuity until age 60.

In terms of pay for performance, the committee recommends:

- Revising the pay charts so pay is based on time in grade rather than years of service; and
- Eliminating the "with dependents" and "without dependents" provision of

basic allowance for housing so all service members in the same pay grade receive the same allowance, regardless of their family situation.

The proposed system would benefit service members, giving them more upfront cash throughout their careers, Pilling said. He noted that most private-sector compensation packages give 80 percent of their cash up front, deferring just 20 percent for retirement.

In contrast, the current military compensation package pays about one-half the total compensation up front and defers the rest.

The committee's recommendations help update the current military retirement system that Pilling said was based on a 1940s-era model.

See **MILITARY PAY**, Page A2